

# Board of Supervisors



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 1987

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### POLL SHOWS SAN MATEO COUNTY VOTERS SUPPORT 1/2 CENT SALES TAX FOR TRANSPORTATION

San Mateo County Voters heavily favor a proposed half cents sales tax increase for a variety of transportation projects, according to a poll released yesterday.

Eighty percent of those polled said they favor the sales tax measure tentatively slated to be on the November ballot. "The tax measure would raise up to \$500 million dollars over the next fifteen years," said Board of Supervisors President Tom Nolan, a supporter of the measure.

The revenue from the new half cent sales tax would go primarily to a series of highway projects while money from the existing half cent sales tax payed to SamTrans would be used to fund an extension of BART from Colma to a site just west of San Francisco International Airport.



According to County Supervisor Tom Huening, co-author of the plan, "In effect, we would be bringing together existing half cent sales tax revenue, new half cent sales tax revenue plus state and federal funds that would be spent on the designated projects. This would give us a comprehensive transportation plan into the 21st Century."

The \$9000 poll conducted by San Francisco political consultant Joe Shumate asked a telephone sample of 400 registered voters whether they would vote for a sales tax increase to help pay for the BART extension, major improvements to Highways 101, 92, and 84, improving the CalTrain rail line, and local road improvements.

The survey also revealed that 83.6% would be more likely to support the plan with the extension of BART to just west of San Francisco International Airport. In addition, 71% of those questioned thought that traffic had become worse in the past year, and indicated that it was a more significant issue than crime, the environment or unemployment.

Attached is a summary of the key points from the poll.



SAN MATEO COUNTY

TRANSIT SURVEY

March 1987

Conducted by Shumate & Associates

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Now I would like to read you a list of some issues. As I do, please tell me if you think the problem has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same in the last year.

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Worse</u>
Crime	14.2	51.7	29.4
Environment	12.4	53.2	30.8
Jobs	15.7	42.3	31.8
*Traffic	4.0	21.1	71.6

Now I am going to describe in more detail some of the proposed projects that would be funded by the proposed ballot measure. For each project, I would like you to tell me if you would be much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely or much more less likely to support the proposed ballot issue because of that project.

	<u>Much more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat less likely</u>	<u>Much less likely</u>
Extend CalTrain to downtown San Francisco, construct a maintenance yard, and purchase the train right-of-way.	28.1	37.3	22.6	7.7



	<u>Much more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat less likely</u>	<u>Much less likely</u>
Extend BART to West of San Francisco Airport to connect with CalTrain at a new transit terminal with 4500 parking spaces, operate a dedicated shuttle service between the airport, and build intermediate stations at South San Francisco and San Bruno	51.0	32.6	9.0	5.7
Improve Highway 101 throughout San Mateo County, adding auxiliary exit lanes where needed, reconstruct and enlarge some interchanges.	43.3	36.1	10.4	7.0

Now I am going to read you a list of transportation projects that some people say San Mateo County needs. Would you please tell me how important you think each one is by giving me a number from one to ten, a "one" is the lowest and means "not very important", a "ten" is the highest and means "very important". Use any number from one to ten.

In San Francisco, extending CalTrain ten blocks to the immediate downtown area.

0	5.5
1	9.5
2	2.5
3	4.0
4	4.2
5	12.4
6	5.5
7	8.7 {7-8-9-10
8	13.9 cluster is
9	7.7 56.4%}
10	26.1



Bayshore corridor highway  
improvements.

0	3.2
1	3.5
2	2.2
3	2.2
4	1.5
5	10.0
6	5.2
7	11.4 {7-8-9-10
8	14.9 cluster is
9	12.9 72.0%}
10	32.8

Rate BART extension to  
West of San Francisco  
Airport.

0	1.7
1	4.0
2	2.2
3	1.2
4	1.2
5	8.0
6	5.5
7	9.0 {7-8-9-10
8	11.7 cluster is
9	9.2 76.2%}
10	46.3

Highway 280 access  
improvements.

0	3.2
1	10.0
2	6.7
3	8.0
4	5.5
5	18.9
6	6.5
7	9.2 {7-8-9-10
8	12.2 cluster is
9	6.2 41.3%}
10	13.7



Now, I would like to ask you some questions about a proposed ballot measure that may be put on the ballot dealing with solving the transportation problem in San Mateo County.

First, would you favor or oppose a ballot measure to spend one billion dollars on making major improvements to Highways 101, 92, and 84; extending BART to just west of San Francisco International Airport; improving CalTrain; and providing a modest percentage to the cities for local road improvements in all areas of San Mateo County? Half of the program would be funded by \$500 million dollars in matching funds from state and federal government, and the other half would be funded by increasing the sales tax in San Mateo County from 6.5 percent to 7.0 percent for fifteen years. [When respondent answers, ASK--] And do you strongly or just somewhat favor/oppose?

FAVOR	80%
OPPOSE	18%
DON'T KNOW	2%

#### Breakdown of Figures

Strongly Favor	47%
Somewhat Favor	33%
Somewhat Oppose	10%
Strongly Oppose	8%
Don't Know	2%

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